

# Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

## Education Assistance Committee

### Financial Aid Assistance Guide

This guide has been created as a resource for Native American students in Indiana as they pursue financial aid assistance for higher education. Please note that every student will make their own journey through this process and this guide only serves to provide information that has been collected from various websites, information pages, etc. specifically for Native American students. Each student will have access to different funding based on their individual standing with their tribe, the income of their family, and the particular school which they wish to attend. The financial aid process can be a difficult process through which to navigate and we offer this guide merely as a starting point on the path towards finding the information that is right for you!

Financial aid can be confusing sometimes. These pages will help you understand the issues and make smarter decisions:

- Have a question? You're probably not the first person to ask. Read these Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Financial Aid. [<http://www.finaid.org/questions/faq.phtml>]
- If you can't find an answer there, ask the Aid Advisor - receive an answer to your question from a qualified financial aid professional. [<http://www.finaid.org/questions/askadvisor.phtml>]
- Look up terms and acronyms in the Glossary of Financial Aid terms. [<http://www.finaid.org/questions/glossary.phtml>]
- Finally, if you're looking for additional reference materials, see these recommended books and additional sources of information. [<http://www.finaid.org/questions/reference.phtml>]

If you are just beginning your journey towards discovering your Native American heritage, please note that the process may take up to two years or more. This guide has been created for those already in possession of the documents listed below.

#### Financial Aid for Native American Students

##### Eligibility

For a student to be eligible for many Native American scholarships, such as BIA scholarships, the student should be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe, though there are some exceptions. Each institution will require specific proof of enrollment and funding will most likely be denied without that proof. Proof of enrollment may be offered in the following ways:

- A "tribal identification card" issued by a federally recognized tribe or nation.
- Birth or baptism records which list your tribal affiliation.
- An affidavit from a recognized tribal official that is familiar with the applicant's or recipient's family history
- Identification from a recognized Native America provincial or territorial organization.

##### General Guidelines for Applying for Financial Assistance

A Native American student applying for financial aid assistance in Indiana should follow these general procedures once they have decided upon a specific school/institution/college:

1. Contact Financial Aid office of specific institution to which you intend to apply.
2. Establish contact person within Financial Aid office to assist with Native American financial aid issues.
3. Apply for aid at their tribal headquarters.

4. Research further financial aid opportunities.
5. Complete on-line FAFSA application.
6. Complete on-line SSACI

## College and Career Planning

Adventures in Education provides college and career planning information for students, parents, teachers, and counselors. [<http://www.adventuresineducation.org>]

Course Corrections , a product of the “College Costs: Making Opportunity Affordable” initiative at the Lumina Foundation for Education, presents ideas for colleges about how to reduce costs, towards the goal of lowering tuition payments. [[http://www.collegecost.info/pdfs/solution\\_papers/Collegecosts\\_Oct2005.pdf](http://www.collegecost.info/pdfs/solution_papers/Collegecosts_Oct2005.pdf)]

## Federal Student Aid Publications through the U.S. Department of Education

- [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)\\*](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) [<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>]
- [Completing the FAFSA](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/completing_fafsa/index.html) [[http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/completing\\_fafsa/index.html](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/completing_fafsa/index.html)]
- [Tips Card](http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/tipcard.html) [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/tipcard.html>]
- [The Student Aid Audio Guide](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_audio_guide/index.html) [[http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student\\_audio\\_guide/index.html](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_audio_guide/index.html)]
- [The Student Guide\\*](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html) [[http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student\\_guide/index.html](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html)]
- [Repaying Your Student Loans\\*](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/repaying_loans/index.html) [[http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/repaying\\_loans/index.html](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/repaying_loans/index.html)]
- [Closed School Guide for Students](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/ClosedSchool_StudentGuide.pdf) —  [[http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/ClosedSchool\\_StudentGuide.pdf](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/ClosedSchool_StudentGuide.pdf)]

## Federal Student Aid Brochures and Fact Sheets through the U.S. Department of Education

- [Federal Student Aid Web Sites](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/Websites.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/Websites.pdf>]
- [Myths about Financial Aid](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/Myths.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/Myths.pdf>]
- [Why Go To College?](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/college.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/college.pdf>]
- [Choose A Career](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/career.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/career.pdf>]
- [Choose A School Carefully](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/choose.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/choose.pdf>]
- [Need training for a job?](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/training.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/training.pdf>]
- [Don't get scammed on your way to college!](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/scammed.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/scammed.pdf>]
- [Be an informed consumer...](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/consumer.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/consumer.pdf>]
- [Military Scholarships](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/process0506.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/process0506.pdf>]
- [Federal Student Aid Application Process](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/glance.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/glance.pdf>]
- [Federal Student Aid At a Glance](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/glance.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/glance.pdf>]
- [Looking for Student Aid](http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/lisa.jsp) [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/lisa.jsp>]
- [Stafford Loan Forgiveness for Teachers](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/stafloan.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/stafloan.pdf>]
- [Don't Get Stung!](http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/stung.jsp) [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/stung.jsp>]
- [Bright Future](http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/brightfuture.jsp) [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/brightfuture.jsp>]
- [Need Money for College?](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/Need_Money_College_BROC.pdf) —  [[http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/Need\\_Money\\_College\\_BROC.pdf](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/Need_Money_College_BROC.pdf)]
- [College Preparation Checklist](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/checklistfinal.pdf) —  [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/checklistfinal.pdf>]
- [Student Aid and Identity Theft](http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/idtheft.jsp) [<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/idtheft.jsp>]

- [Funding Your Graduate Education](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/gradguide.pdf) —  [http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/gradguide.pdf]
- [PIN Flyer](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/PIN.pdf) —  [http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/PIN.pdf]
- [Pre-Application Worksheet](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/PIN.pdf) [http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/PIN.pdf]

## Sources of Aid

In addition to the resources listed below, the FastWEB scholarship search lists 70 active award sources for Native American students only, 11 award sources for Native American or Native Alaskan students, and hundreds of awards for minority students. [http://www.fastweb.com/fastweb/register/start?ref=finaid-21f--http%3a%2f%2fwww%2efinaid%2eorg%2fotheraid%2fnatamind%2ephtml]

## US Bureau of Indian Affairs

Students who are more than 1/4 Indian blood should be eligible for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) scholarships. BIA/OIEP funds may only be awarded to a person who is a member of a *federally* recognized Native American tribe.

Native American students must apply for a BIA/OIEP Indian Education Grant through their tribe, home agency, or area office of Indian Education. Check with your local BIA office for applications, eligibility and deadlines. Information from the Indiana BIA is located at:

9531 Valparaiso Court, Suite A  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
**Phone:** 317-356-7722  
**Fax:** 317-808-7770  
**E-mail:** [info@biai.org](mailto:info@biai.org)  
**Website:** [www.biausa.org/Indiana](http://www.biausa.org/Indiana)

The school's financial aid administrator must send a needs assessment to the director of the Higher Education program of the tribe, so the students have to file the FAFSA. Based on this need analysis, the student may be awarded "Higher Ed" grants.

For general information about the Indian Higher Education Grants for undergraduate and graduate students, call 1-202-208-4871, 1-505-881-4584, or 1-202-208-7163, fax 1-202-208-6334, or write to US Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Education, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240-0001. The phone number for the BIA Office of Public Affairs is 1-202-219-3711 and their fax number is 1-202-501-1516. The Bureau of Indian Affairs can also be reached at 1-800-332-9186.

See also the BIA Educational Native American Network (ENAN) [http://enan.bia.edu/home.aspx] and BIA Office of Indian Education Programs (OIEP) [http://www.oiep.bia.edu/faqs\_grantinfo.html].

## Tribal Offices

Another good source of financial aid is the student's tribe. Some tribes have scholarships for their members, although the awards are usually for very small amounts. Very often if a student does not qualify for a BIA/OIEP grant, the tribe will award a "tribal" scholarship. Each tribe handles its own funding differently, with different award amounts and deadlines, so it is best to contact the tribe directly.

## Indian Health Service (IHS)

The IHS web site provides information about the IHS Scholarship Program and the IHS Loan Repayment Program. [http://www.ihs.gov/JobCareerDevelop/Job\_index.asp]. The IHSSP Indian Health Service Scholarship provides full tuition and fees, books, uniforms, equipment, travel, insurance, national board exams,

travel for clinical training, and a stipend for students majoring in health professions, engineering, and accounting. The deadline is usually March 31. For more information, call 1-301-443-6197, fax 1-301-443-6048, (call 1-301-443-3396 or fax 1-301-443-4815 for the loan program), or write to Indian Health Service, Scholarship Program, Twinbrook Metro Plaza, Suite 100, 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852.

## **Colleges and Universities**

Many schools offer free tuition, room and board to Native American students, especially full-blooded Native American students. Be sure to ask each school you are considering what incentives they offer to encourage Native American students to enroll. There may also be special awards for students minoring in Native American studies.

## **Daughters of the American Revolution American Indian Scholarship Fund**

The Daughters of the American Revolution American Indian Scholarship Fund typically awards \$500 scholarships to Native American students all across the country. Deadlines are August 1 for the fall and November 1 for the spring. For more information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ms. Mary Barnett, Rt. 3, Box 530, Cynthiana, KY 41031.

## **Other Information Resources**

### **All Nations AMP**

The goal of the All Nations Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics is to double the number of Native Americans graduating with Bachelor degrees in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology by the year 1999. Check out the web site for the Chicago AMP (ChAMP) [<http://www.iit.edu/~iitnsf/chicago-amp.html>].

### **American Indian College Fund** [<http://www.collegefund.org/scholarships/main.html>]

This web page contains the scholarship information from the American Indian College Fund. They provide funds to students at Native American colleges. For more information, call 1-800-776-FUND or 1-303-892-8312, fax 1-303-572-0650, or write to American Indian College Fund, 1111 Osage Street, Building D, Suite 205A, Denver, CO 80204 (or American Indian College Fund, Dept PN, 21 West 68th Street, New York, NY 10023), or send email to [aicf@aol.com](mailto:aicf@aol.com).

### **American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)** [<http://www.aihec.org/>]

The AIHEC is a collection of Native American schools and information on their missions.

### **American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)** [<http://www.aises.org/>]

AISES has long been the frontrunner in Native American education and issues. Other AISES web pages include the [AISES Scholarship Programs](http://www.aises.org/highered/scholarships/) page [<http://www.aises.org/highered/scholarships/>].

For information about the Polingaysi Qoyawayma Scholarship (for graduate students who are going on to teach in math or science), call 1-303-492-8658 or write to AISES, 1630 30th Street, Suite 301, Boulder, CO 80301-1014.

*\*Braille publications are available from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).*